

# MISSISSIPPI DIVISION OF MEDICAID

## Eligibility Policy and Procedures Manual

### CHAPTER 200 – Income: Aged, Blind and Disabled (ABD) Categories

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## 200.03 WHAT IS NOT INCOME

Some items received by an individual are not income because they do not meet the definition of income. Other items are income by definition, but are excluded from an individual's income by federal statute. Only those items specifically listed in the law and regulations can be excluded from income. The items in this section are not considered income for Medicaid purposes.

### 200.03.01 MEDICAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES, RELATED CASH AND IN-KIND ITEMS

Medical and social services are not income for Medicaid purposes. Under the circumstances specified in this section, cash and in-kind items received in conjunction with medical and social services are also not income.

#### Medical Services

Medical services are those services which are directed toward diagnostic, preventive, therapeutic or palliative treatment of a medical condition and which are performed, directed or supervised by a state licensed health professional. The term “medical services” includes any room and board (i.e., food or shelter) provided during a medical confinement, as well as in-kind medical items such as prescription drugs, eyeglasses, prosthetics and their maintenance, electric wheelchairs, modified scooters and specially trained animals, such as seeing eye dogs, and their maintenance. Transportation to and from medical treatment is also considered a medical service.

#### Social Services

A social service is any service (other than medical) which is intended to assist a handicapped or socially disadvantaged individual to function in society on a level comparable to that of an individual who does not have such a handicap or disadvantage. Some frequently encountered social services programs are programs funded under Title IV-B of the Social Security Act, Child Welfare Services; Title V of the Social Security Act, Maternal and Child Health and Crippled Children's Services and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Education is not generally considered to be a social service, nor is vocational training that is not part of a vocational rehabilitation program. Government income maintenance programs such as TANF or Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance and Child Welfare Assistance are also not social services.

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#### **MEDICAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES, RELATED CASH AND IN-KIND ITEMS** (Continued)

##### **Cash Received in Conjunction with Medical or Social Services**

When cash is received in conjunction with medical or social services, handle as follows:

- Any cash provided by a governmental medical or social services program is not income.
- Any cash from a nongovernmental medical or social services organization is not income when:
  - The cash is for medical or social services already received by the individual and approved by the organization; however, if the individual receives an amount in excess of the expense of the medical or social services, the excess cash is unearned income; or
  - The cash is a payment restricted to the future purchase of a medical or social service, or related excludable in-kind items.
  - Cash from any insurance policy which pays “loss of time” benefits to the recipient and restricts payment to periods of hospital confinement is treated as a third party resource, not income. However, cash payments considered to be an income supplementation for lost income due to a disability are income. This includes weekly disability policies without regard to hospital confinement.

##### **In-Kind Items Received in Conjunction with Medical or Social Services**

When in-kind items are is received in conjunction with medical or social services, handle as follows:

- In-kind items which meet the definition of medical services are not income regardless of their source.
- Room and board (food and shelter) provided during a medical confinement is not income. A medical confinement exists when an individual receives treatment in a medical treatment facility.
- Any in-kind items (including food and shelter) provided by a governmental medical or social services program are not income.
- In-kind items (other than food or shelter) provided by a nongovernmental medical or social services organization for medical or social services purposes are not income.

**NOTE:** Cash payments for medical or social services that are not income are also not a resource for one calendar month following the month of receipt.